

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-11 SCCT-01 /083 W

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R 191855Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1364

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO AMEMBASSY PERRIS

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0171

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, OVIP (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD)

SUBJECT: SENGHOR VISIT TO HAITI, MARTINIQUE AND GUADELOUPE ANNOUNCED

REF: A 75 DI-4 6621 (NOTAL), B 75 PORT AU PRINCE 2886 (NOTAL)

1. SENGHOR VISIT CONFIRMED - PORT AU PRINCE MEDIA ANNOUNCED JAN 16 PLANNED VISIT TO HAITI, MARTINIQUE, AND GUADELOUPE OF SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR (RETELS). TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT COINCIDED WITH BRIEF VISIT TO HAITI OF GOS AMBASSADOR TO HAITI, ANDRE COULBARY, RESIDENT IN WASH D.C., MEDIA REPORTED THAT SENGHOR'S THREE DAY VISIT TO HAITI WILL TAKE PLACE IN MID-FEB.

2. COULBARY PAID CALL ON AMBASSADOR ISHAM JAN 16. HE SAID THAT THE HAITIAN PORTION OF SENGHOR'S TRIP PROBABLY WILL OCCUR FEB 18-21, FOLLOWING STOPS IN THE FRENCH ISLANDS. SENGHOR WILL TRAVEL IN HIS OWN AIRCRAFT. SENGHOR APPARENTLY WISHES TO MINIMIZE HIS ENTOURAGE TO A RELATIVE HANDFUL: AMBASSADOR COULBARY, SENEGALESE EMBOFFS BASED IN WASH D.C., SEVERAL PERSONAL AIDES AND PROTOCOL OFFICIALS, AND A SECURITY DETAIL. MRS SENGHOR IS NOT INCLUDED. COULBARY IS HOPING TO CONVINCE SENGHOR TO ADD AT LEAST ONE GOS CABINET OFFICIAL, POSSIBLY MINISTER OF CULTURE SENE. COULBARY BELIEVES THAT THREE DAYS IS TOO

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LONG FOR THIS STATE VISIT, EVEN ALLOWING FOR ONE DAY THAT

WILL BE DEVOTED TO CAPE HAITIEN AND THE HISTORICAL SITES OF SANS SOUCI PALACE AND THE CITADELLE FORTRESS. COULBARY SAID THAT HE AND THE GOH PLANNERS WOULD TRY TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT, THOUGH IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS WOULD EVEN BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE CONCLUSION OF A CULTURAL AFFAIRS AGREEMENT IN THEIR FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

3. GOH-GOS PROBLEMS - COULBARY HAD NOT VISITED HAITI SINCE PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS IN DEC 1972, AND ADMITTED TO VIRTUAL IGNORANCE CONCERNING HAITIAN DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID HE WAS UNPREPARED TO PROVIDE SENGHOR WITH AN ADEQUATE BRIEFING, WHICH WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE SENGHOR AND THE GOS HAD BEEN LOATH TO RISK THE TRIP IN VIEW OF HAITI'S DUBIOUS REPUTATION IN AFRICA. COULBARY SAID MOST OF THE NEWS HE GOT ABOUT HAITI CAME FROM HAITIAN EXILES IN THE US, WHO NATURALLY PAINTED A GLOOMY PICTURE OF PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. GOH-GOS RELATIONS WERE ALSO NOT HELPED BY THE FEW HAITIANS ACTIVE IN DAKAR (NO NAMES MENTIONED), WHO COULBARY CLAIMS ARE INVOLVED WITH ANTI-GOS ELEMENTS. COULBARY REQUESTED AND OBTAINED A BRIEFING FROM US ON RECENT HAITIAN EVENTS.

4. US EMBASSY BRIEFING - EMBASSY BRIEFING EMPHASIZED (A) DUVALIER'S FIRM CONTROL OVER GOH, (B) CONSIDERABLE GOH LIBERALIZATION REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, (C) DUVALIER'S PRAGMATIC POLICY OF OPENNESS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN A BROADLY BASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FROM SUCH DONORS AND AGENCIES AS US, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, ROC, ISRAL, WORLD BANK GROUP, IDB, OAS AND UN AGENCIES, AND LIMITED PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN A VARIETY OF "TRANSOFMRATION" INDUSTRIES. ALSO POINTED OUT THAT OLDER GENERATION OF HAITIAN ELITE HAD AT LEAST SUPERFICIAL AWARENESS OF SENGHOR'S "NEGRITUDE" POETRY, WHICH WAS HAILED BY THE BLACK HAITIAN INTELLECTUALS WHO SUPPORTED THE LATE PRES. FRANCOIS "PAPA DOC" DUVALIER'S ELECTION IN 1957, AND WHO EVEN PUBLISHED A MAGAZINE ENTITLED THE "GROITS". DUVALIER FILS SEEMINGLY INHERITED THIS STRONG SENSE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY WITH AFRICA, WHICH HE LAST ARTICULATED DURING ZAMBIAN PRES. KAUNDA'S BRIEF VISIT TO HAITI IN APRIL 1975. WHILE THE DUVALIERIST EMBRACE OF "NEGRITUDE" MAY BE A MIXED BLESSING FOR SENGHOR, IT IS ONLY FAIR TO POINT OUT THAT DUVALIER FILS IS ACTUALLY TRYING

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TO IMPLEMENT SOME OF THE MORE PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS WHICH DUVALIER PERE FAILED TO PURSUE. BRIEFING CONCLUDED WITH POINT THAT REGIME HAD IMPROVED TO SUCH EXTENT THAT SENGHOR AND GOS NEED NOT APOLOGIZE FOR IMPROVING ITS TIES WITH HAITI, WHOSE NATURAL AFFINITY FOR AFRICA SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, NOT SCORNE. COULBARY SAID HE WAS MUCH RELIEVED TO LEARN OF THIS PROGRESS, WHICH SHOULD ENCOURAGE DAKAR CONSIDERABLY. HE AGREED THAT SENGHOR COULD HELP TO BROADEN HORIZONS OF

YOUNG DUVALIER AND HAS MADE PROVISION IN SCHEDULE FOR INFORMAL  
CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS.  
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